

## Message Text

SECRET

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44

ACTION NEA-07

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NEAE-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 INR-05

INRE-00 CIAE-00 SP-02 L-01 EB-03 TRSE-00 OMB-01 SSO-00

/039 W

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O 311626Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6527

INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL DHAHHRAN IMMEDIATE

SECRET AMMAN 10089

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: ENRG SA JO

SUBJECT: TALK WITH PRIME MINISTER TAPLINE PROBLEM.

REF: AMMAN 10085

1. DURING COURSE OF CONVERSTION WITH PRIME MINISTER DECEMBER 31 HE RAISED WITH ME ON VERY URGENT BASIS CON TINUING DIFFICULTY WITH TAPLINE. HE OUTLINED FOR ME IN BRIEF STATEMENT EFFORTS TOWARD SETTLEMENT REPORTED REFTEL. HE REPEATED THAT JORDAN IS OPTIMISTIC THAT PRESENT SETTLEMENT ARRANGEMENTS WILL GO THROUGH AND THAT SAUDIS WILL REIMBURSE THEM FOR DIFFERENCE BETWEEN \$11.50 PER BARREL AND \$3.00 PER BARREL AND THAT TAPLINE WILL SUFFER NO ADVERSE CONSEQUENCES. IN ADDITION HE SAID SETTLEMENT WILL BE COMPREHENSIVE AND COVER PAST DEBTS OF TAPLINE BEFORE SAUDI PAYMENT PICK UP AS OF APRIL 1975. HE SAID DEAL ONLY AWAITS SAUDI OIL MIN YAMANI'S APPROVAL. THEY DO NOT ANTICIPATE DIFFICULTY IN ACHIEVEING THIS SINCE YAMANI'S SUBORDINATES WORKED OUT THE DEAL.

2. MEANWHILE HE SAID URGENT PROBLEM HAS ARISEN. SOME

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TWO WEEKS AGO JORDAN ASKED TAPLINE TO INCREASE DELIVERIES

TO ZARKA REFINERY FROM 3100TONS PER DAY TO  
3500 TONS PER DAY. TAPLINE DECLINED SAYINT THEIR  
GAUGES AND EQUIPMENT WOULD NOT PERMIT THIS. RIFAI SAID  
HE UNDERSTOOD THEIR RELUCTANCE.

3. FOUR OR FIBE DAYS AGO HOWEVER TAPLINE DELIVERIES  
DECLINED TO 1100-1200 TONS PER DAY. JORDANIANS TRIED  
URGENTLY TO CONTACT TAPLINE BUT LOCAL OFFICIALS  
STRANGELY UNREACHABLE. IN PAST WHEN DELIVERIES DECLINED  
BECAUSE OF MEACHANICAL PROBLEMS TAPLINE HAD ALWAYS IN  
FORMED JORDANAINS. WITH 35,000TONS IN STORAGE IT WILL NOT  
TAKE TOO LONG TO RUN OUT OF OIL--RIFAI SAYS TWO OR THREE WEEKS.  
HE WONDERED WHETHER THIS WAS AN EFFORT BY TAPLINE TO  
PUT PRESSURE ON THE JORDANAINS.

4.I REVIEWED FOR RIFAI BERY BRIEFLY MY MEETING IN  
DHAHRAIN SOME WEEKS AGAO WITH ARAMCO PRESIDENT POWERS.  
I TOLD RIFAI I DOUBTEC THAT TAPLINE WOULD USE THIS  
DEVICE ESPECIALLY WHEN SAUDIS IN THE PAST HAD ASKED  
THEM NOT TO. (POWER DID INDICATE HOWEVE TAPLINE  
PATIENCE WITH JORDAN WAS GROWING THIN. I URGED  
FOREBEARANCE ON HIS PART MAINLY BECAUSE OF THE POLITICAL  
COMPLICATIONS AND TOL HIM THEN I THOUGHT SAUDIS AND  
JORDANAINS WOULD BE GETTING TOGETHER.)

5. RIFAI ASKED IF WE COULD DO ANYTHING WITH TAPLINE  
TO AVOID A CONFRONTATION NOW WHEN IT SEEMED CLEAR TO  
ALL THAT A SETTLEMENT WAS ON THE WAY. HE ASKED WHETHER  
WE COULD DELIVER A MESSAGE TO TAPLINE INFORNING THEM ON  
HIS BEHALF THAT SETTELEMNTN WAS CLOSE AND ONLY WAITED  
FIAL SAUDI CONFIRMATION AND INQUIRING WHY PUMPING  
RATED HAD DROPPED BELOW 3100 TONS WIICH TAPLINE HAS  
HERETOFORE DELIVERED TO JORDANIAN REFINERY.

6. I SAID I TOULW DO WHATEVER I COULD TO GET THE MESSAGE  
THROUGH TO TAPLINE AUTHORITIES AND SEE IF WE COULD  
DETERMINE WHY PUMPING HAD SLOWED.

7. WITH APPROVAL OF DEPARTMENT AND JIDDA SUGGEST  
CONSUL GENERAL DHAHRAIN GET IN TOUCH WITH APPROPRIATE  
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ARMACO/TAPLINE AUTHORITIES AND PASS ON RIFAI'S MESSAGE.  
IT WOULD BE HELPFUL ALSO IF WE COULD GET OUR OWN MESSAGE  
ACROSSTO TAPLINE  
THAT SETTLEMENT DOS APPEAR CLOSE THAT  
SAUDIS WOULD PROBABLY REACT AS THEY HAD I THE PAST  
TO INAPPROPRIATE SLOWDOWN OF DELIVERIES TO JORDAN PARTICULARLY  
IN VIEW OF RECENT SUCCESSFUL KING KHALID VISIT HRE, AND  
THAT IF AS WE HOPE SLOWDOWN WERE PURELY OF A MECHANICAL

VARIETY, WE BE AUTHORIZED TO INFORM JORDANIANS NATURE OF SLOW  
DOWN AND WHEN PUMPINT WILL BE RESTABLISHED AT  
FULL RATE.

8. RIFAI STRESSED THE NATURE OF HIS CONCERN THAT  
JORDAN BE STARVED FOR OIL OR THAT TAPLINE SETTLE  
MENT EFFORTS NOT BE THROWN OFF THE TRACKS AND SAID HE  
HOPED I COULD HAVE SOME INFORMATION FOR HIM BY  
SATURDAY MORNING, JANUARY 3 LOCAL TIME.  
PICKERING

SECRET

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptoning:** Z  
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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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